In the Specification:

Please amend the specification, page one, first paragraph under "Related Applications", as follows:

This application is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 09/860,9168, filed May 18, 2001 and entitled, "Stress-Induced Connecting Assembly", (now US Patent No. 6,513,814), which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 09/523,719, filed March 11, 2000 and entitled, "Stress-Induced Interposed Connector" (U.S. Patent No. 6,257,953), which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 09/311,938, filed May 14, 1999 and entitled "Stress-Induced Seal", now abandoned. This application is further based on prior Provisional Application Ser. No. 60/262,362, filed January 19, 2001 and entitled Drive Shaft Coupling. The entire disclosures of these afore-mentioned applications are expressly incorporated by reference herein and relied-upon.

The use of metallic super-elastic alloys, such as Ni--Ti (nitinol) and other bi- or tri-metal alloys, has been documented in a variety of technical applications, including fasteners, connectors, gaskets, clamps and seals. Many such uses have required temperature in order to activate the material and change its physical state, while others have used mechanical forces that impart stress to cause a super-elastic physical deformation in the material. Of particular concern to the instant inventor is the application of the super-elastic material to connectors. The use of non-corrosive, metallic super-elastic material offers a decided advantage in high performance connecting assemblies, versus more conventional connectors requiring threaded fasteners, springs, clamps or other holding or securing mechanisms. Particularly it can withstand more wear than alloys used in conventional connectors due to its harder surface characteristics. It can also withstand extreme vibrations and not loosen due its elastic preloaded condition without using conventional adhesives to hold the assembled components and/or the connector itself

together. Adhesives used with conventional connectors make them very difficult to disassemble, whereas it is generally possible to make a super-elastic connector completely reversible.

U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,395,193 and 5,584,631 to Krumme et al., discuss the use of nickel-titanium shape memory retainers in an optimized elastic condition that have super-elastic or pseudo-elastic properties. These fasteners are said to be useful for eyeglass assembly; they are placed onto a pin to retain components together.